

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2140

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2968

LIMDIS

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR OAS CU CO

SUBJ: 1) WASHINGTON MFM 2) CUBAN ISSUE

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH FORNMIN APR 8 ON EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR UNGA SPECIAL SESSION IN NEW YORK, WE DISCUSSED UPCOMING MFM IN WASHINGTON. VAZQUEZ BROUGHT UP THE CUBAN ISSUE, NOTING THAT ARGENTINA WAS GOING TO INTRODUCE IT. VAZQUEZ PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW IN PRECISELY WHAT FORM ARGENTINA WOULD PRESENT THE ISSUE. IF IT MERELY MADE A DECLARATION, EVEN A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE, THAT WOULD BE TOLERABLE. IF ARGENTINA POSED THE ISSUE AS ONE FOR THE OAS, OR SOUGHT A VOTE, IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT. THE MIN THEN SAID THAT THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE COULD NOT IGNORE THE CUBAN ISSUE FOR VERY MUCH LONGER. COLOMBIA, HE SAID, WOULD NOT PUSH THE MATTER OR TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND THE PASTRANA ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE CUBA. NEVERTHELESS, ONE HAD TO RECOGNIZE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES. ARGENTINA HAD A REAL ECONOMIC STAKE IN REOPENING TRADE WITH CUBA AND THE LIFTING OF THE SANCTIONS.

2. I REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT THAT IF THE CUBAN ISSUE IS PUT FORWARD AS AN OAS ISSUE IT WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE. I NOTED THAT LEGAL QUESTIONS OF HOW TO INTERPRET THE RIO TREATY VOTING PRIVILEGES ON SANCTIONS, THE TWO THIRDS REQUIREMENT, ETC WOULD ALL BE RAISED AND THIS WOULD BRING INTO DEBATE LARGER QUESTIONS OF FUTURE INTERPRETATION AND EVEN THE UTILITY OF THE RIO TREATY, ALL OF WHICH WOULD BE UNFOR-
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TUNATE. I SAID THAT WHATEVER TRANSPIRED I DID NOT THINK THE US WOULD

CHANGE ITS POSITION ON SANCTIONS. VAZQUEZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE US POSITION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE THORNY LEGAL PROBLEMS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE UNFOTUNATE IF IN EFFECT THE OAS TACTLY ACQUIESCED IN GROWING UNILATERAL VIOLATIONS OF THE TREATY. THIS WOULD PLACE THE TREATY IN DISREPUTE. HE REPEATED THAT AS FAR AS WASHINGTON MEETING GOES, MUCH DEPENDS UPON THE TERMS IN WHICH ARGENTINA PRESENTS THE ITEM. BUT HE DID NOT SEE HOW DISCUSSION OF IT COULD BE AVOIDED IN EITHER WASHINGTON OR ATLANTA.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE MFM GENERALLY, VAZQUEZ SAID THAT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO COME UP WITH SOME CONCRETE RESULTS IN WASHINGTON. OTHERWISE THE "NEW DIALOGUE" WILL APPEAR TO PEOPLE AS A FARCE, AND OUR RELATIONS WILL SUFFER ACCORDINGLY. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY AN AP REPORT APPEARING IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A "TORMENTUOUS" SESSION LAST FRIDAY BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND LA AMBASSADORS. HE NOTED THAT THE AUTHOR OF THE DESPATCH WAS AREY MOLEON, AND MOLEON, WHOM THE MIN SAID HE KNEW WELL, WAS INCLINED TO THE SENSATIONAL AND TO EXAGGERATE ACCORDINGLY. BUT VAZQUEZ HOPED THAL NO PROBLEMS WERE ARISING. I SAID THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE ALLEGED INCIDENTS, BUT I HAD SEEN THE AP REPORT. VAKY

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